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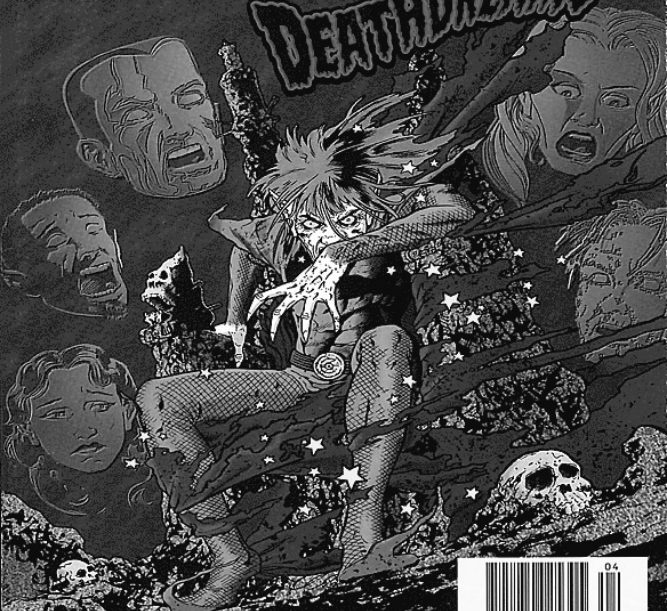
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EXCALIBUR

DEATH DREAMS



RAAB

CALAPIONE

HUNTER



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WINZELDORF,
GERMANY.

A QUANT
BAVARIAN
HAMLET...

THIS WAY MEN!
THE MONSTER
WENT THIS
WAY!

...WHERE A LONE
MAN FLEES FOR
HIS VERY LIFE!

we've GOT
him now!

come DOWN,
monster --
or we'll
BURN you
down!

GO
AWAY! PLEASE!
I HAVE DONE
NOTHING!

I BEG TO
DIFFER. YOU'VE
DONE FAR TOO
MUCH --

-- PROFESSOR
CHARLES XAVIER!



BASTION,
PLEASE! I HAVE
DEVOTED MY LIFE
TO A DREAM OF
PEACEFUL CO-
EXISTENCE BETWEEN
HOMO SAPIENS
AND HOMO
SUPERIOR!



"PEACEFUL CO-
EXISTENCE" P

YOU'RE
DELUSIONAL,
OLD MAN.

YOUR
PRECIOUS
"DREAM" HAS CAUSED
MORE HARM TO
HUMANITY THAN
GOOD!

IT'S HIGH TIME
YOU PAID FOR YOUR
TRANSGRESSIONS --
-- WITH
YOUR LIFE!



THIS
IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE
TOWN, THE ANGRY MOB --
IT'S ALMOST AN EXACT RE-
ENACTMENT OF THE NIGHT
I WAS NEARLY BURNED
AT THE STAKE AS A
DEMON!

ONLY
THEN, PROFESSOR
XAVIER SAVED MY
LIFE! NOW, OUR ROLES
ARE REVERSED! BUT,
THIS NIGHTMARE CAN'T
BE REAL...

...CAN
IT?

STOP,
BASTION! YOU
CAN'T DESTROY
THAT MAN -- OR
HIS DREAM! I
WON'T LET
YOU!

© MARVEL BACK IN THE
CLASSIC COMICS SIZE X-MEN
BY FRANK FRANK



NO,
NIGHTCRAWLER..P

WATCH
ME.





KURT WAGNER IS AN ACROBAT WITHOUT PEER, WHOSE AGILITY FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF EVEN THE MOST SKILLED OLYMPIC GYMNASTS.

HE IS ALSO A MUTANT -- THE RESULT OF A GENETIC ACCIDENT THAT BRANDED HIM A FREAK AT BIRTH, BUT SERENDIPITOUSLY GRANTED HIM THE UNIQUE ABILITY OF TELEPORTATION.

THESE GIFTS HAVE SERVED HIM WELL IN HIS ROLE AS ONE OF XAVIER'S X-MEN AND AS EXCALIBUR'S LEADER.

YET, AT THE MOMENT HIS MENTOR NEEDS THESE TALENTS MOST -- AS THE RACIST LEADER OF THE MUTANT WITCH-HUNT DUBBED OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE FINES TO DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HIS HEART...

MY LEGS! MY POWERS! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?

...KURT WAGNER FINDS HIMSELF CRIPPLED WITHOUT THEM.

AND STRUGGLE THOUGH HE MAY, HE DOES SO IN VAIN.

MEIN GOTT, CHARLES -- I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE IN SUCH GRAVE DANGER.



THE X-MEN... TH- THEY NEVER TOLD ME. I DON'T KNOW... I DIDN'T...



HARSH!





YOUR ART IS SO... SO EXPRESSIVE!
WHY, THE PAIN YOU MUST'VE SUFFERED TO CREATE SUCH MASTERPIECES...?

IT'S ABOUT TIME THE LOUVRE RECOGNIZED YOUR GENIUS! IT SCREAMS VOLUMES TO THE OPPRESSED AND INSANE!

PLEASE... YOU MUST SIGN MY BODY! "TO BRIDGET... LOVE PIOTR."

Heh. I AM BUT A SIMPLE FARM BOY WITH A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD...

...BUT IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO SIGN SO LOVELY A CANVAS...

FINALLY, MY ART SPEAKS TO PEOPLE IN THE WAYS I CANNOT! I'M CHANGING THE WORLD WITH MY SOUL... NOT WITH MY FISTS.

"IF ONLY MY FAMILY WERE HERE TO SHARE MY JOY..."

BUT WE ARE HERE, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH... WE ARE ALWAYS HERE.

IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART, IN THE SHADY CHASM OF YOUR SOUL,

IN LIFE...

...AND DEATH.

MAMA... PAPA... MIKHAIL... ILYANA...?

DO YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE DONE? WHAT MY ART MEANS TO PEOPLE...?

WE HAVE NOT RISEN FROM THE GRAVE TO ADMIRE YOU OR YOUR SILLY PAINTINGS, DEAR BROTHER...





...WE
HAVE COME TO
BURY
YOU!

WAIT--
I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND!



WE RASPUTINS
ARE CURSED,
PIOTR.

TRAGEDY IS
THE RULE OF OUR
MISERABLE LIVES.

"AND NOT EVEN YOUR
BLEEDING ARTIST'S HEART
CAN SHIELD YOU FROM
THAT CURSE..."

NYET!

THAT FOR ALL HIS VAUNTED
STRENGTH -- ALL HIS
STRUGGLES TO MAKE THE
WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR
ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS
OF RACE, CREED OR
GENETIC PREDISPOSITION...

...THE VOICE OF HIS
ART -- HIS SOUL,
HIS HEART...

...IS DOOMED
TO FALL ON
DEAF EARS.

PLUMMETING THROUGH
THE GLASS PYRAMID
TOPPING THE IMAGINARY
REPLICA OF PARIS'
CELEBRATED LOUVRE
GALLERY...

CRASH
CRASH
CRASH

...EXCALIBUR'S EVER-
STALWART COLOSSUS
IS GRIPPED WITH A FEAR
UNLIKE ANY HE HAS
EVER KNOWN.

A FEAR ELICITED BY
THESE NIGHTMARRISH
SHOULDS MOCKING
THE MEMORY OF HIS
DEARLY DEPARTED
FAMILY.



TRANSFORMING
YOUR STEELY HIDE
MAY HAVE PROTECTED
YOU FROM THE FALL,
BROTHER...

...BUT YOUR
FATE—LIKE OURS—
IS SEALED!

AT FIRST, I
WAS SO SELFISHLY
RAPT IN THIS FANTASY OF
WHAT I WANTED MY LIFE
TO BE... I SUPPOSE I JUST
DENIED THE TRUTH ABOUT
MY FAMILY.

THAT MY
PARENTS WERE MURDERED
BY THE KGB... THAT MY
ELDER BROTHER, ANIKHAI,
A MUTANT LIKE ME...
WENT INSANE, BECAME A
MURDERER OF OUR OWN
KIND... AND IS NOW
LIKELY DEAD...

...AND THAT
MY SISTER—MY
PRECIOUS ILLYANA—
ROTS IN A GRAVE TOO
PREMATURE FOR HER FEW
YEARS ON THIS EARTH.
THANKS TO THAT
GENETIC PLAGUE,
THE LEGACY
VIRUS!

I DO NOT
KNOW WHO OR
WHAT YOU ARE... BUT
I'VE DONE PENANCE FOR
FAILING MY FAMILY! I'LL
NOT LET YOU SULLY
THEIR MEMORY
WITHOUT...

YADDA,
YADDA, YADDA!
ENOUGH WITH THE
POSTURING HERO
AND HIS GUILTY
CONSCIENCE...

— TIME FOR A
DIFFERENT DAYTIME
FAMILY DRAMA!

THERE SHE IS,
BAMF! — YOUR FAVORITE
LIL' MINX IN ALL HER
ADOLESCENT GLORY!

KITTY!
KITTY!
KITTY!

MEE-
OWW!

GIDDYUP!

NUKE
THE DRAGON, AND SHE'S
OURS!

AHHH, YESS...
'LOCKHEED' ISN'T IT?
WHAT A RIDICULOUS NAME
FOR A MEKE FIGMENT
OF A LITTLE GIRL'S
IMAGINATION!

BET YOU'RE
WONDERING HOW YOU
FIT INTO TONIGHT'S VERY
SPECIAL EPISODE OF
'NIGHTMARE THEATRE'...
oh, DRAGON...?

Uhhhh...
YEAH!

BAM!

JOKE'S
ON YOU,
BINKY --
'CUZ YA
DON'T!

"REMEMBER
WHEN WE ALL
HELPED PIRATE
KITTY SAVE THE
UNIVERSE FROM
THE EVIL PHOENIX
DEMON...?"

"THAT LITTLE DITTY
PRETTYKITTY THUNK
UP FOR SICK WITTE
WYANA WASPUTIN
WHEN THEY WUZ
KIDS...?"

"WELL, YA OBVIOUSLY
DIDN'T GET THE MEMO,
SPORT -- BUT KITTY WAS
SUPPOSED TO FALL IN
LOVE WITH US AFTER
THAT ADVENTURE, NOT
YOU!"

"WHILE YOU'VE BEEN
MAKING TIME WITH
THAT SEXY L'L
SHADOWCAT IN THIS
WORLD, WE'VE BEEN
STUCK IN THAT
RIDICULOUS
'WELL AT THE CENTER
OF TIME'!"

"BUT GUESS WHAT,
MON FRERE? WE OUT!
WE ABOUT! AND THIS
TIME --"

"KITTY'S GOIN' HOME
WITH US, NO DOUBT!"

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SERIES 1-4

FORK OVER THE GOODS,
NIGHTY! WE FULFILLED OUR
END O' THE DEAL! YOU
GOT EXCALIBUR --

-- NOW WE WANT
PRETTYKITTY!
GONNA
TAKE HER BACK TO
THE CRIB AND
SHOW HER HOW
MUCH WE OVES
HER!

SETTLE DOWN, BOYS.
PATIENCE. CAN'T YOU
SEE THE GIRL'S HAVING A
"MOMENT"?

THE SCREAMS AND SHOUTS
RISING UP FROM THE LIVING
ROOM LIKE VENGEFUL GHOSTS
ARE THE SAME SPECTERS THAT
HAUNTED HER AT 13.

STOP.
PLEASE
JUST STOP
IT...

HOW DO YOU
EXPECT ME TO
EVER TRUST YOU
AGAIN,
TERESA?

ME,
CARMEN... P! IF
ANYONE BETRAYED
A TRUST IN THIS
RELATIONSHIP,
IT'S YOU!

HER PARENTS
ARE AT IT. AGAIN.

STOP IT!
STOP IT!
STOP IT!

WASN'T
SUFFERING THROUGH
MOM AND DAD'S
DIVORCE HARD ENOUGH
ON ME THE FIRST TIME
AROUND?

GET A
GRIP, PRYDE.
YOU'RE NOT A KID
ANYMORE... AND THIS
IS NOT HAPPENING! IT'S
JUST SOME SICK, STUPID,
NIGHTMARE TRICK
SOMEONE'S PLAYING
TO MESS WITH
YOUR HEAD.

BUT
WHO... P AND,
WHY... P

IS IT TO
MAKE ME FEEL EVEN
GUILTIER ABOUT WHAT I'M DOING
TO PETE WISDOMP IN MY HEART, I
BETRAYED HIS TRUST... JUST LIKE MY
PARENTS BETRAYED EACH OTHER'S...

OH, GOD -- IS THAT MY
DESTINY? TO BETRAY
THE PEOPLE I LOVE SO
THAT I END UP LIKE
MY FOLKS?
MISERABLE...

...ALONE...

KIDS TODAY, SO
MELODRAMATIC.

THAT
GAL'S TOTIN' AS
MUCH EMOTIONAL
BAGGAGE AS THE
OTHER TWO!
Hmmm... NOW
THAT I MENTION
IT --

"... THAT SEEMS TO BE A
RECURRING THEME WITH
THIS 'DOUGLOCK'
DOOHICKEY AS WELL..."

TRAITOR!
YOU CANNOT
LEAVE US!

THIS SEETHING MASS
OF TECHNOCYBERNETIC
SOUP IS THE COLLECTIVE
MIND OF THE
ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS
THE PHALANK.

BUT I WAS CREATED
TO EXIST SEPARATELY,
DISTINCT FROM THE
COLLECTIVE
CONSCIOUSNESS!

AN
INDIVIDUAL!

FEARED THROUGHOUT
THE UNIVERSE FOR
ASSIMILATING MILLIONS
OF RACES...

...ITS PRESENCE
HAS NEVER BEEN
SO FRIGHTENING
AS IT IS NOW FOR
THIS TORMENTED
BOY WHO THOUGHT
HE HAD FOREVER
THROWN OFF THE
CHAINS OF HIS
PEOPLE'S
OPPRESSIVE
GESTALT.

PREPARE TO BE RE-
ASSIMILATED INTO OUR
CONSCIOUSNESS,
"DOUGLOCK" ---

WHERE
YOU BELONG!

GAA AHH

STUNK
STUNK
STUNK



...NOW
ONLY ONE
TORTURED SOUL
REMAINS...
THE
REDOUBTABLE
PETER PAUL
WIDOM.

YOU,
HUHP

FZASH

SLUMMIN'
IT AGAIN,
I SEE.

TURNING ON THE
BRAVADO FULL BLAST --
EH, OLD FLONKER!
I'VE SEEN YOU
BOWL LIKE A BOTTLELESS
BABE BEFORE. WHAT'S ANY
DIFFERENT NOW?

I AM...

NO! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?! GET
BACK IN THERE!

O'OH!
THE WIG
IS UP!

AND
GONE!

HE AND I
ARE OLD FRIENDS. THIS
ONE. YOU CAN ALWAYS
EXPECT AN AWARD-
WINNING PERFORMANCE
FROM FOUTY
PETER.

BETTER
KEEP ON CHANNEL
SURFING, PALE-FACE.
"OSCAR" HAS LEFT
THE BUILDING.
NOT
GONNA GET ANY MORE
INTERESTING THAN THIS...

PAST
TENSE,
PAL.

B-BUT MY CONTROL OVER
SUBCONSCIOUS MISERY
IS ABSOLUTE!

OOOoF!

NOW, PARK
IT --

-- AND LEARN A LITTLE SOMETHIN'
ABOUT THE PEOPLE YA THOUGHT YA'D
CRACK HERE ON ELM STREET,
YA RIDICULOUS FREEDY KRUEGER-
WANNABE.

SHEEAKITZ

YOU
WANT TO SEE
MEGGAN'S TRUE
FORM...?
FEAST
YER EYES ON
THIS.

"TO LOOK AT HER, YA'D
SWEAR SHE'S SOME
AIRHEAD, BUT MEGGAN'S
ONE OF THE MOST
"TOGETHER" BIRDS I'VE
EVER MET.

"NAH, SHE KEEPS
HERSELF TOGETHER
BY LEANIN' ON THE
PEOPLE AROUND HER.
HER FRIENDS...

"HER
FAMILY.

"SURE, SHE AND COLOSSUS
GOT RIGHT COZY DURING
BRIAN'S ABSENCE, BUT
THAT GIRL'S A ONE-
MAN-WOMAN AT HEART...

"HER BOHUNK BOYFRIEND
TAKES OFF FOR GOD-
KNOWS-HOW-LONG,
AND WHAT DOES SHE
DO... P FALLS TO PIECES
LIKE SOME LOVESICK
PUPPY?

"HER EMPATHY MIGHT'VE
CONFUSED HER FEELINGS
TOWARDS PIOTR SOME,
BUT THAT CONFUSION'LL
DISAPPEAR THE MOMENT
SHE'S BACK IN
BRADDOCK'S ARMS AGAIN...

"...AND THIS GUILT-
STRICKEN NIGHTMARE
WILL BE NOTHING MORE
THAN A FADED BAD
DREAM.

"SORRY, OLD
GUY, THIS
ROUND GOES TO
EXCALIBUR."

"...AND
CAPTAIN
BRITAIN
IS IT.

HEY, WAIT!
I WAS WATCHING
THAT!



"NOW, FOR
ROUND
TWO..."

"AHHH,
MUCH
BETTER!"

"THERE'S
NOTHING MORE
ENTERTAINING
THAN WATCHING
A SIMPLE MAN'S
DREAMS DIE!"



"DON'T GET TOO
EXCITED, WHITEY.
LOOK WHO'S PULLIN'
THE PLUG ON THIS
BROADCAST..."

"RASPUTIN'S BEEN
PLAGUED BY HIS FAIR
SHARE OF DEMONS
SINCE BECOMING AN
X-MAN, BUT THE KID'S
HEART IS ABOUT AS
BIG AND STRONG AS
THE METAL HIDE
PROTECTING IT."



"AND HE'LL USE THAT
STRENGTH TO DESTROY
ALL WHO OPPOSE HIM!
IT'S IN HIS EYES! THE
ANGER! THE HATRED!"

"YOU
WISH."

"MIXED AS MY
FEELINGS FOR THE
SORRY SOD MAY BE,
I GOTTA HAND IT
TO HIM, THOUGH HE
COULDN'T SAVE HIS
OWN FAMILY..."



"... HE HAS LONG
SINCE BURIED HIS
GUILT OVER IT
ALONG WITH HIS
DEMONS."

"DOS
VIDIANYA,
BROTHER.
DO NOT
FORGET."



"NEVER,
LITTLE SNOW-
FLAKE."



"AND WHILE THE WORLD AROUND
HIM MIGHT YET DECLARE WAR ON
HIS SURROGATE FAMILY, COLOSSUS
HAS AT LEAST MADE PEACE..."

"NEVER..."

"... WITH
HIMSELF."

STARTING
TO SEE A PATTERN
HERE, NIGHTIE?

ONCE IS AN
INCIDENT. TWICE A
COINCIDENCE...
-- AND
THREE TIMES
A PATTERN.
WATCH...

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!
YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE
REABSORBED INTO THE
COLLECTIVE...

... YOUR PHENOTYPIC
ENGRAMS WILL BE
METAMORPHOSIZED, YOUR
LIKENESS COMMITTED
INTO ONE MORE
BEFITTING A PHALANX!

B-BUT I HAVE A
LIFE OF MY OWN NOW.
A MIND OF MY OWN.

FEELINGS
OF MY OWN...

FEELINGS ARE IRRELEVANT.
YOU ARE FLESH OF OUR
TECHNO-ORGANIC FLESH,
BLOOD OF OUR COLLECTIVELY-
SHARED BLOOD.

SUCH DISTINCTIONS AS
YOU SUGGEST DO NOT
EXIST WITHIN THE
COLLECTIVE.

SURRENDER, RECOGNIZE
THE MAJESTY THAT IS
YOUR BIRTHRIGHT AS
PENANCE FOR YOUR
TREACHERY...

... AND IT WILL BE YOUR
HAND THAT GRANTS YOUR
FRIENDS A SWIFT, MERCIFUL
EXECUTION WHEN WE RETURN
TO ASSIMILATE THEIR
WORLD!

NO! I'M NOT
ONE OF YOU!
NOT ANYMORE!

ARRGH!

IT'S
TRUE! WE HAVE
BEEN SYSTEM-
PURGED!

I'VE EXORCISED
ALL TRACES OF
THE COLLECTIVE
FROM WITHIN ME.
THE TIES THAT
BOUND ME ARE
SEVERED.

I'M MY OWN
BEING NOW --
MY OWN
PERSON...

... SO GO FIND
YOURSELVES A
NEW WHIPPING
BOY!

AND
CYBERBOY
MAKES THREE.
READY TO SAY
"UNCLE"...?

NEVER!
JUST SHUT UP AND
CHANGE THE
CHANNEL...

MY
PLEASURE...

A BETTER
LEADER WOULD HAVE
PREVENTED THIS,
NIGHTCRAWLER.
HAD YOU
MISANTHROPE'S NOT
SEGREGATED YOURSELVES
FROM YOUR FELLOW FREAKS
STATESIDE, XAVIER MIGHT
NOW BE A FREE MAN.

INSTEAD, HE
ROTS IN A COLD
AND LONELY PRISON,
LOCKED AWAY FROM HIS
FRIENDS AND LOVED
ONES, AWAITING
EXECUTION.

NOW, IF
YOU'D KINDLY
PUT YOUR JOHN
HAWCK ON
THE DEED...

HEER
PROFESSOR...
PLEASE FORGIVE
ME FOR WHAT I
AM ABOUT
TO DO...

AND YOU,
KURT WAGNER,
ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR INSCRIBING
HIS DEATH
WARRANT.

CHARLES...
IMPRISONED P
M-MY FAULT... P
N-NO...

THE ONLY
DREAMS
I'LL KILL,
MONSTER...

I HAVE PLEDGED MYSELF
TO THE PERPETUATION OF
CHARLES XAVIER'S DREAMS
OF PEACE AND GENETIC
TOLERANCE, BIGOT, I'LL
NOT SEE THEM BLED TO
DEATH BY THE LIKES
OF YOU!

YOU
WANTED
A WAR WITH
MUTANTKIND,
BASTION... P
FINE! SHOW
YOUR FACE
AGAIN...

...AND
YOU'LL GET
ONE!

...ARE
YOURS!

SQUARRRRI!

NEVER
SEEN WAGNER SO
PASSIONATE BEFORE.
YOU MUST'VE REALLY
STRUCK A NERVE,
NIGHTS.

OH,
BELIEVE ME... I
HAVE STRUCK SEVERAL.
TRY THE NEXT CHANNEL
AND SEE.

YOU ESPECIALLY
SHOULD ENJOY THIS
BROADCAST...

KITTY...

STOP
IT, NIGHTMARE.
I DON'T WANT TO
SEE THIS.

SORRY,
CHAP. WE'RE
LIVE!

'AS I SAID... YOU CAN'T
CHANGE WHO YOU ARE.

'STRIP AWAY THE MANY FACES OF KATHERINE FRYDE--
THE PRECOCIOUS GENIUS, THE LITHE DANCER, THE
MUTANT HEROINE... EVEN THE DEADLY NINJA--

'... AND YOUR DARLING
SHADOWCAT'S JUST A CHILD.

'AND LIKE ALL CHILDREN FORCED
TO GROW UP TOO SOON, SHE'LL
SOMEDAY BECOME AN EMOTIONAL
STORY, DESTINED TO FOREVER
WALK THE SHADY GUTTERS
OF LOVE UNREQUITED...

'...AND
ALONE.'

COOOOO
SHIFF
OOOOO

YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
IS AT A CRUX POINT. STAY
TOGETHER, AND YOUR 'ADULT'
WORLD WILL SOON BECOME
ANOTHER TO HER, A CONSTANT
MOCKERY OF A CHILDHOOD
PREMATURELY
LOST.

IN
TIME, SHE'LL
COME TO BLAME YOU.
RESENT YOU. EVEN
HATE YOU.

FOR YOU
WILL PERSONIFY
EVERYTHING SHE
NEVER REALLY
WANTED.

HER LIFE
WILL HAVE BECOME
A VERITABLE
NIGHTMARE--

'... ALL
BECAUSE OF
YOU.'

CLIK

BREAKS
THE HEART,
DON'T IT?



HEY!
HOUSE OF
BILE WAS ON
NEXT.

'BOUT AS
MUCH AS YER
JALINCHED
MUG!

ALMOST
HAD ME 'R A
SECOND THERE,
NIGHTIE -- BUT YA
BLEW IT.

YOU'VE
BEEN INSIDE MY
HEAD BEFORE. YOU
KNOW THE BAGGAGE
I'VE LUGGED OVER THE
YEARS AS WELL AS I DO.



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THE GUILT... THE GRIEF... AN' THE
REGRET THAT WAS BORN THE
DAY MY MUM WAS KILLED
BECAUSE O' ME.

THE WEIGHTED
CONSCIENCE THAT CONTINUED
TO GROW WITH EVERY BLACK
AIR MISSION...

...UNTIL IT BECAME
AN UNCONTROLLABLE BEAST
OF A NIGHTMARE WHEN HUNDREDS
O' INNOCENT ROMANIAN
CITIZENS DIED BY MY HAND.



MADE ME SICK TO MY
STOMACH, BUT I BEAT
MY NIGHTMARES. I
BEAT YOU.

AN' I'M
GONNA BEAT YOU
AGAIN NOW.
WHY --?

BECAUSE NO
HORROR SHOW YOU COULD
POSSIBLY PRODUCE COMPARES
TO THE ONE THAT LITTLE LADY IS
MAKING ME LIVE THROUGH NOW



AND
WHAT'S WORST
OF ALL...?

I CAN'T
CHANGE THE
CHANNEL...



KOFF!
ACK! KOFF!



C'MON, DRAGON --
SHOW'S OVER.

WOO!
HOO!

FZ
SH



THE NIGHTMARE'S "SCREAMING ROOM"
FADES AWAY INTO OUR HEROES'
UNCONSCIOUS MINDS...

THERE
YOU ARE,
SWEETIE! I'VE BEEN
SO WORRIED
ABOUT YOU!

WHAT A
CURIOUS
EXPERIENCE. I
DIDN'T KNOW
I COULD
"DREAM"...

KURT,
DID ALL THAT
REALLY
HAPPEN?

I PRAY
TO GOD NOT,
MEGGAN.

IF ANY OF
THOSE VISIONS
ARE GENUINE
REPRESENTATIONS
OF REALITY, AND
NOT JUST OUR
SUBCONSCIOUS
PHOBIAS...

...THEN I
FEAR FOR US
ALL.

EVEN IF THEY
ARE, KURT --
WE'VE STILL GOT
EACH OTHER TO
LEAN ON.

LIKE YOU, MY
BEST LIL BUDDY!
YOU STOOD UP TO
THAT BIG, BAD
DEMON AND ALL
THOSE NASTY
BAMFS, AND SAVED
THE DAY FOR
EVERYONE!

**WAAA
WAAA!**

WHAT... P YOU
MEAN --
Oh... P

**Yen!
Yen!**

SURPRISED... P?

I --
Ummm...

AND
THAT'S OUR
CUE, PEOPLE.
SOMETHING
TELLS ME --

-- THOSE
TWO NEED TO
TALK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MEET

EXCALIBUR



United to preserve the dream of Professor Charles Xavier, they have sought to extend the message of the X-Men beyond the shores of America. Operating out of their headquarters on Muir Island in Scotland, they've sworn to defend mutantkind from a world that both hates and fears them, for they are... **EXCALIBUR!**



COLOSSUS

The Russian mutant born Piotr Rasputin is the powerhouse of Excalibur. His artistic heart is masked by his cold, hard exterior, as Colossus has the ability to transform his flesh and blood into a form of impervious organic steel!



NIGHTCRAWLER

Nightcrawler: Born with the mutant ability to teleport short distances, stick to walls and ceilings, and turn virtually invisible when in deep shadows, the German-born Kurt Wagner is the blue-skinned leader of Excalibur.



MEGGAN

Linked to the elemental forces of Great Britain as a faerie, the enigmatic but naive Meggan has the ability to change her physical form at will, as well as the power to shape the very forces of nature to fit her needs.



PETE WISDOM

A former intelligence operative with the mutant ability to generate "hot knives". Boyfriend to Kitty Pryde, he remains a reluctant member of Excalibur.



DOUG LOCK

Although his body is comprised of Phalanx physiology, Douglock is not a member of that alien race. Though his resemblance to the deceased Douglas Ramsey is not a coincidence, Douglock's quest for humanity and the truth about who he is continues to elude him.



SHADOWCAT

American-born Kitty Pryde has the mutant ability to turn her body intangible and walk on air with but a thought. Trained in the ways of the Samurai and the ninja, Shadowcat's physical prowess is balanced by her brilliant mind and her former X-Men training.



NIGHTMARE

Nightmare is a demon, residing in his own dimension, who manipulates the minds of humans while they sleep, confronting and tormenting them with their own fears, and turning their dreams against them.



PREVIOUSLY IN...

EXCALIBUR

The Bamfs ran amok on Muir Island, mischievously terrorizing the members of Excalibur.



But despite their jovial demeanor, the Bamfs answered to a higher power...

...Nightmare, the master of dreams—and he had his own agenda where the team was concerned!

PRELUDES & NIGHTMARES!

BEN RAAB
Story

JIM CALAFIORE
Guest Penciler

ROB HUNTER
Inker

**RICHARD STARKINGS
& COMICRAFT**
Letters

**KEVIN
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Colors

**FRANK
PITTARESE**
Editor

**BOB
HARRAS**
Boxed Off

PLAY IT
AGAIN!

YEAH!
REWIND!
REWIND!

WHAT'D I TELL
YOU, BOYS... I GOT
ALL THE BEST
CHANNELS!

HORROR.
TERROR. FEAR.
SUFFERING. YOU WANT
'EM -- YOU CAN BET
YOUR MORTAL SOUL
NIGHTMARE'S
GOT 'EM!

SCREAMING ROOM

NAAH. TOO MUCH GUILT
THIS EARLY MAKES EVEN
ME QUEASY.

BAMF

SHOW
THE BLONDE
BIMBO NEXT!
SHE'S A HOTTIE!

BAMF

NO, YOU
IMP-BECILE!
SHOW PRETTY
KITTY! SHE'S THE
ONE WE ALL
WANT!

BACK OFF
BAMF! -- I'M
DRIVIN'
HERE!

YOU GUYS ARE HIRED HELP.
SOON AS I GET INTO THESE
FREAKS' HEADS AND FIND OUT
EVERYTHING I'M SUPPOSED
TO --

... YOU'RE
GOING BACK
WHERE I FOUND
YOU!

HOLY
BUZZKILL
BAMF
MAN.

WE
DON'T GET
NO RESPECT!
I
TELL YA!

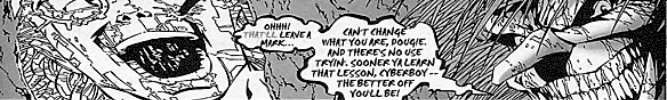
NOTE TO
SELF: NEVER HIRE
THAT TALE MIDGET.
NOW, WOULD YOU GUYS
SHUT IT ALREADY -- I

THE NEXT
SHOW'S
STARTING!

ARE
YOU REALLY
THE PIOTR
RASPUTIN? THE
WORLD FAMOUS
ARTISTE!

DA...
I AM
HE.

EXCALIBUR
Created
By
**CHRIS
CLAREMONT
& ALAN
DAVIS**



OHHHH!
THAT'LL LEAVE
MARK...

CAN'T CHANGE
WHAT YOU ARE, DOOKIE,
AND THERE'S NO USE
TRYIN'. SOONER YA LEARN
THAT LESSON, CYBERBOY --
THE BETTER OFF
YOU'LL BE!

AND DO YOU,
BRIAN BRADDOCK --
THE CAPTAIN BRITAIN
OF EARTH-616 -- TAKE
MEGGAN TO BE YOUR
LAWFULLY WEDDED
WIFE...?

TO HAVE
AND TO HOLD,
IN SICKNESS AND IN
HEALTH, AS LONG AS
YOU BOTH SHALL
LIVE...?



I DO.

THEN BY THE
POWER VESTED
IN ME, AS
UNIVERSAL
MAJISTREX, I --
ROMA -- HEREBY
PRONOUNCE
YOU HUSBAND
AND WIFE.
YOU
MAY NOW
KISS THE
BRIDE...

~SNIFF
SNIFF~

OOH,
BACHELOR!
SHUSH! YE'RE
GONNA MAKE
ME ~SNIFF
SNIFF~ CRY,
TOO!

C'MON,
YOU TWO!
STOP ~SNIFF-
SNIFFING!
~SNIFF~

YET FOR SOME, THE
JOY IS MIXED WITH
SORROW, NOT FOR
THEMSELVES...

I'VE BEEN GONE
SO LONG, AND
I'VE MISSED YOU
SO MUCH,
MEGGAN.

BRIAN,
I --

...BUT FOR THE ONE
WHOSE SHAMEFUL
SECRET LIES IN WAIT
TO BE EXPOSED.



TAKE THE
BUSTY BLONDE BRIDE,
FOR INSTANCE. SHE'S ABOUT
TO DISCOVER THAT ALL THE
SILKY VEILS AND TAFFETA IN
THE WORLD CAN'T HIDE THE
BEAST INSIDE...

IT SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST
DAY IN ANY YOUNG COUPLE'S
LIFE, AND FOR THOSE GATHERED
HERE TO HONOR THIS BLESSED
UNION, IT IS INDEED JOYOUS TO
SEE THEIR TWO FRIENDS FINALLY
BECOMING ONE.

HUSH, LOVE. I'VE WAITED SO
PATIENTLY FOR THE DAY WHEN I
WOULD LIFT THIS VEIL AND YOU
WOULD BE MINE ALONE...
FOREVER.

FOR THE PRICE TO
POSSESS LOVE'S
MANY SPLENDORS
IS SOMETIMES
EXACTED BY THE
SECRET CURRENCY
OF A GUILTY
CONSCIENCE...

...AND THAT THE
TRUTH BENEATH THE
VEIL IS HIDEOUS
TO BEHOLD!

NO,
BRIAN...
DON'T!